Cut in Government Establishment

4375. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress on the 10 per cent cut on Establishment announced by Government a few years ago;

(b) How many posts have actually been abolished during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 so far, Group-wise;

(c) what is the shortafall in the targetted 10 per cent cut therein; and

(d) how many new posts have been created during the corresponding period, Group-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) In pursuance of a decision announced by the Prime Minister in the National Development Council meeting held in December, 1991, an exercise has been initiated by various Ministries/Departments to reduce staff strength by at least 10 per cent. Abount 67,000 posts have been abolished so far. The exercise is still continuing and the shortfall, if any, will be known once the exercise is completed.

(d) The Group-wise and year-wise details of posts abolished or created are not centrally available.

Losses incurred by Nationalised and Gramin Banks in Madhya Pradesh

4376. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a good number of branches of nationalised Banks and Gramin Banks operating in the rural parts of Madhya Pradesh are running in losses continuously for the last many years;

(b) if so, what are the details of those loss-making branches of Banks in the State which are consistently incurring losses for the last five years in the State and

(c) what remedial action Government have initiated in respect of such banks and what action Government have taken to ensure easy availability of loans to farmers and village artisans in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) 777 branches of nationalised banks in rural part of Madhya Pradesh have incurred lossed as at the end of March 1994. Of these 320 branches were incurring losses for three years and more. As per information available from NABARD, 21 RRBs in Madhya Pradesh incurred losses continuously from 1989-90 to 1993-94. Mahakaushal Kshetria Gramin Bank made losses from 1989-90 to 1992-93. Data for 1993-94 is not available.

(c) Steps generally taken to reduce/wipe out losses in loss making branches include improving deposit mix; shift to high yielding advances; relocating the branches, were locational disadvantage is the reason for inadequate business, improving the quality of assets by recovery of overdues and reducing non-performing assets. formation of Task Force Teams at Regional Office to support recovery efforts. Keeping loss making branches under constant review and monitoring their progress closely, reduction in expenditure, proper funds management etc. As regards deployment of credit to agricultural and rural sector, RBI have asked commercial banks to formuate specific plan for the year for increasing credit to these sector. Banks have also been advised to comply with the stipulated 18 per cent lending to agriculture under the priority sector. Relaxations in margin money and security requirements are given in specified class of cases to ensure easy availability of loans.